

SOME POPULAR INDOOR DIVERSIONS FOR YOUNG FOLK ON HALLOWEEN



For those young persons who prefer a little Halloween pranks than putting Johnson's wheelbarrow on Bilkins' front porch, planting barbers' poles in front of churches and otherwise altering the scenery surreptitiously there are many interesting and entertaining diversions. The girls usually go in for ducking for apples, burning lucky candles, telling fortunes or questioning the mirror for a glimpse of the lucky young man who may be a future husband.

The lucky candle game is an old and popular one. A tub half filled with water is placed in the middle of the floor, and lighted wax candles, set on bits of wood, are floated on the surface of the water. Each person participating in the game chooses a candle, and the one whose candle burns longest will be attended by the best luck through life. Ducking for apples is more fun for those who look on than the ones who do the ducking, for it is no easy matter to lean over a tub of water and pick up a floating apple

with your teeth. Halloween, or Hallow Even, the evening of Oct. 31, is so called as being the vigil of All Hallows. It is associated popularly with the prevalence of supernatural influences, and in Scotland the ceremonies of the eve were formerly regarded in a highly superstitious light. The principal object in consulting the future was to discover who should be the partner for life. Popular belief ascribed to children born on Halloween the faculty of perceiving and holding converse with supernatural beings.

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PROMPT JUSTICE.

The Magistrate Was Firm and Tried to Be Genial.

In the "History of Beverly," Mass., the following anecdote is related of a good justice of the peace in the old colonial times. On a cold night in winter a traveler called at his house for lodging. The ready hospitality of the justice was about being displayed when the traveler unluckily uttered a word which his host considered profane.

Upon this he informed his guest that he was a magistrate, pointed out the nature of the offense and explained the necessity of its being expiated by sitting an hour in the stocks.

Remonstrance was unavailing, for custom at that time allowed the magistrate to convict and punish at once, and in this case he acted as accuser, witness, jury, judge and sheriff, all in one.

Cold as it was, our worthy justice, aided by his son, conducted the traveler to the place of punishment, an open place near the meeting house where the stocks were placed. Here the traveler was confined in the usual manner, the benevolent executor of the law remaining with him to beguile the time of its tedious by edifying conversation. At the expiration of the hour he was reconducted to the house and hospitably entertained till the next morning, when the traveler departed with, let us hope, a determination to consider his words more carefully before giving them utterance in the hearing of a conscientious magistrate.

JAPAN'S PAGODAS.

They Are Built to Resist the Shock of an Earthquake.

A remarkable fact in Japan is that pagodas built hundreds of years ago embody the principle of the modern seismograph, which is to minimize the effect of earthquake motion by the combination of an inverted pendulum with an ordinary pendulum, or, in other words, by the union of a stable and an unstable structure to produce a neutral stability, which renders the whole building least sensible to earthquake shock.

In the hollow well of every five storied pagoda a heavy mass of timber is suspended freely, like an exaggerated tongue, from the top right to the ground, but not in contact with it, and at the shock of an earthquake this large pendulum slowly swings and the structure sways and then settles back safely upon its base.

This is also the principle followed in the construction of all bell towers throughout Japan, where the bell acts as pendulum, and the roof, supported by posts, forms an inverted pendulum, as in the seismograph.

When an earthquake occurs a pagoda or a bell tower may be rotated or displaced, but it cannot be overturned as a whole.—Wide World Magazine.

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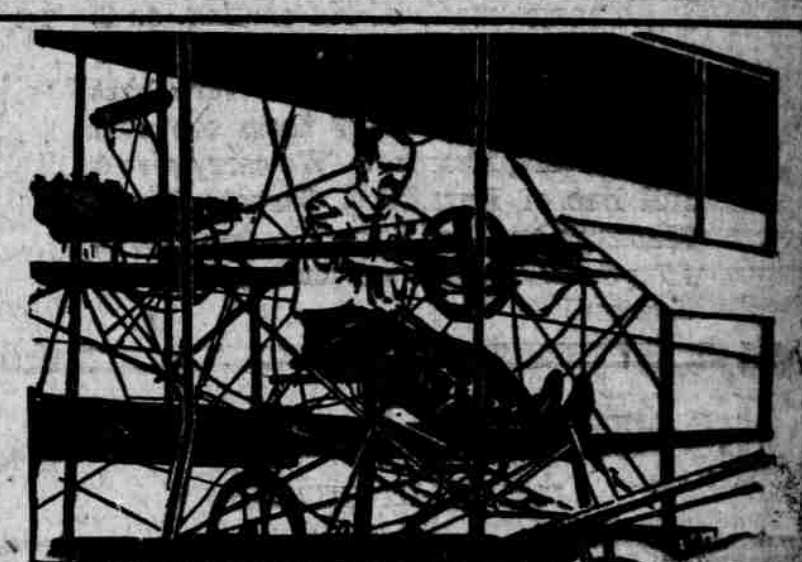
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